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Finance Committee Minutes 03-13-2002

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'Neill room Community Safety Building
 3/13/02

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz*	Feinleib	Kocur	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons*	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes*	Franclemont		Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning	Tosi*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: School Committee Members Joni LaMachia (Chair), Barbara Goodman, Marty Thrope, Dave McKenna; School Personnel Kay Donovan (Superintendent), David Kale (Business Manager), Joanne Gurry, Stephen Carne, Cathy Clement Saleh, Pam Trauern, Marilyn Bisbicos, Janet Collins, Raymond Smith, Ann Burns, Julia McLaughlin, Gus Martin; Parents Lori Talanian, Steve Roels, John Crowley, Alan Brown, Janet Firie, Shelagh Peoples, Rose Udics, Jane Culbert, Gerry M Smith, Lisa Heisterkamp Davis, Jeanne Damenichello.

MINUTES of 3/11/02 approved as printed. Unanimous.

GENERAL: Tosti provided an updated budget summary showing the effect of Mondays budget changes. The deficit is now \$1.7m. He also reviewed the "rainy day" fund balances & policies for the visitors. He will prepare a paper on this subject.

BUDGET 19 EDUCATION: LaMachia reviewed the school budget process and introduced the other School Committee members & the Superintendent. Kale used a handout provided on Monday to review the school budget needs and reductions under various scenarios. He stated that the \$600,000 SPED shortfall this year will absorb all end of year surpluses. Also the State Building Assistance Bureau now has auditors addressing the oldest (17 yrs) accounts.

Donovan reviewed recent school successes and then, using the same handout, reviewed the school priorities and her 20 recommended reductions totaling \$920k to reach a 3.8% increase. These reductions are consistent with the priorities. She also reviewed the School Dept articles.

ARTICLE 30 AUTHORITY TO FILE FOR GRANTS: Routine Board of Selectmen article.

ARTICLE 37 REVOLVING FUNDS-All Day Kindergarten: Routine Board of Selectmen article.

ARTICLE 38 EARLY RETIREMENT: Legislature has not voted. Probably will not affect teachers.

ARTICLE 64 ATHLETIC FACILITY: No specific plan presented. \$3 million Peirce Field cleanup industrial partner contribution at risk. Tabled.

SCHOOL RENOVATION: Peirce may be late. Superintendent will propose to Infrastructure Committee delaying Dallin start to Summer of 2003 to spread tax impact. Construction costs maybe coming down. Latest Peirce & Dallin refund delay prediction is 5 yrs. Peirce cost growth will probably qualify for 63% reimbursement. The staff answered questions from the FinCom.

What is objective of guidance department reorganization? Will be limited to AHS.

Why the utility increase? Delayed electric bill.

Why will Dallin transportation cost so much? Twice as much as Peirce.

How many retirees? 30 in 2002; 12 in 2003

Does Arlington subsidize METCO? Yes because included in enrollment figures, but less than in past due to law change last year.

Why not consider more realistic (2x larger) cuts? Unless needed for sure would hurt morale.

STATEMENT: Saleh said parents have been learning about budget issues and are ready to support the Town leaders when they determine a course of action that will protect services.

BUDGETS: The Fiscal Subcommittee reported on the following budgets using a handout format similar to the budget book.

BUDGET 6 TREASURER: Treasurers increase deleted. In Warrant. Banking service cost improvement. VOTED \$558,38 Unanimous. Subcommittee to check on legal expense.

BUDGET 7 POSTAGE: Corrected step-increase error. VOTED \$154,33 Unanimous.

BUDGET 12 PARKING: Overtime increase not justified. Step increase error. VOTED \$77,645 Unanimous.

BUDGET 5 COMPTROLLER: Built-in overtime for Webmaster being discussed. \$34k expense reductions. VOTED \$888,929 Unanimous.

BUDGET 8 ASSESSOR: Subcommittee recommended no merit increase. M Schedule merit increases in previous budgets were not refused. Janowitz to collect info on all M Schedule people who are above midpoint. VOTED to table.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS: No meeting Monday, 3/18.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$231,272

Peter B. Howard, Secretary

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date of presentation	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date of presentation	Date of vote	\$	Vote/ assigned to
1	2/4	2/4	11257	Unanimous	19				
2					20				
3	2/20	2/20	308314	Unanimous	21				
4					22	3/11	3/11	informal	Support
5	3/13	3/13	888929	Unanimous	24	2/11,3/12			No report
6	3/13	3/13	558638	Unanimous	31				

7	3/13	3/13	154733	Unanimous	32				
8	3/13	3/13	265702	Tabled	33				
9	2/20	2/20	693368	Unanimous	34	1/28			Need info
10	2/20	2/20	190595	Unanimous	35	2/11		BOS	
11	2/20	2/20	91838	Unanimous	38	1/28,3/13	2/4	No report	Unanimous
12	3/13	3/13	77645	Unanimous	39	1/28			Foskett
13					40	1/28			
14	2/20	2/20	340727	Unanimous	41				
15	2/20	2/20	19570	Unanimous	42				
16					43				
17a	3/11	3/11	291028	Unanimous	44				
17b	3/11	3/11	4856628	Unanimous	45				
17c	3/11	3/11	4757069	Unanimous	46				
17d	3/11	3/11	728035	Unanimous	47				
18a					48				
18b	3/11	3/11	422500	Unanimous	49				
19					50				
20	2/20	2/20	1616142	Unanimous	52	2/27	2/27	7209284	Unanimous
21a	2/20	2/20	103030	Unanimous	53	1/28	2/4	Approve	Unanimous
21b	2/20	2/20	187045	Unanimous	54	3/6			
21c	2/20	2/20	175726	Unanimous	55				
21d	2/20	2/20	146692	Unanimous	56				
22					59				
23					60				
24					61				
25	2/11		9866370	Tabled	62	2/20	2/20	Favor Act	Unanimous
26					63				
WS					64	3/13		no plan	tabled
Rec	2/20	2/20	-9071	Unanimous	65		2/11	No action	Unanimous
Rnk	2/20	2/20	-77	Unanimous	66				
COA	2/20	2/20	-2150	Unanimous	67				
YS	2/20	2/20	263844	Unanimous	68				
					69				
					70				
					71				
					72				
					73				